

# 2006-2007 budget development

PATRICK COLLINS  
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS SERVICES

The FY07 (2006-2007 school year) budget development process began in November and will culminate next May 2006 at the annual town meeting. Each year the budget is "built from the ground up" with detailed forecasts for all expenditure categories. As we build our budget plan we are guided by our values as articulated in the district's mission statement and implemented in the annual district goals. In addition, we analyze student performance, including standardized testing, and look at our requirements for improvement as mandated by the federal and state government. These are the macro-level activities that we engage as the process begins.

## Key Factors Impacting 2006-2007

As we enter the FY07 budget development process, several key factors have been identified that could have a significant negative impact on the current levels of service and quality of programs.

### Enrollment Increasing by 144 students

District-wide and school-based enrollment projections are now being finalized. Class sizes will be determined by the number of new teachers we hire to meet the increase in enrollment. Certainly, if no new teachers are hired as a result of our fiscal constraints, then class sizes will increase throughout the district. As one can see from the chart, continued enrollment growth has been a challenge for Shrewsbury as the community has experienced rapid growth.

### Decreased Funding From "Circuit Breaker" Program

In FY06 the state revised its reimbursement formula for servicing in-district special needs students. In FY07 we can expect to receive relatively the same as FY06.

### Chapter 70 State Aid Re-formulation

A Department of Education proposal to change the distribution formula and the overall funding level may impact Shrewsbury's aid in FY07. Shrewsbury has experienced significant increases in state aid since Education Reform. Chapter 70 for the last five years is depicted in the chart to right.

On average, Shrewsbury has received 17% annual increases in funding from the Chapter 70 state aid program. This is a contributing factor to Shrewsbury's low tax burden in comparison to area communities.

A change in the funding formula could have a negative impact on Shrewsbury. We await Governor Romney's state budget plan set to be released in late January 2006.

### Limitations of Proposition 2 1/2

In FY06 Shrewsbury is at limit of its property tax levying capacity. Revenue for FY07 to fund school and municipal services will be capped by this limitation. Only the Board of Selectmen can approve a town-wide "override" vote.

### Fees

The FY07 budget will continue the bus fee program and will likely include a recommendation for a rate increase. Transportation costs for next school year will increase as a function of our contract terms that allow for a rate increase equal to the Consumer Price Index. Currently, the fee covers only a small percentage of the total annual costs.

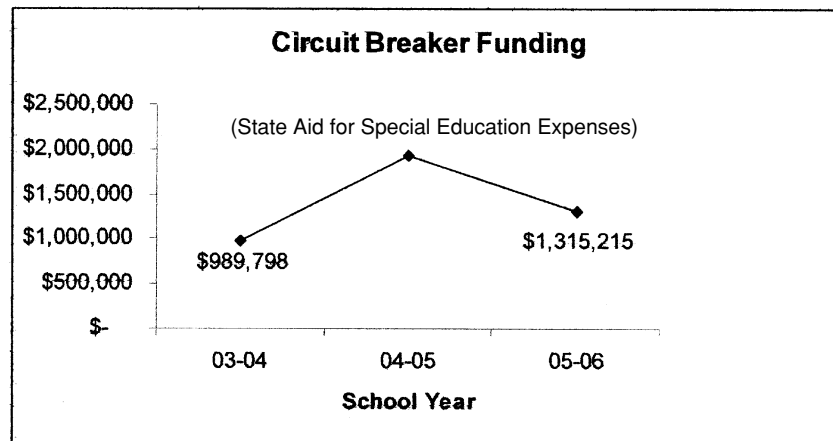
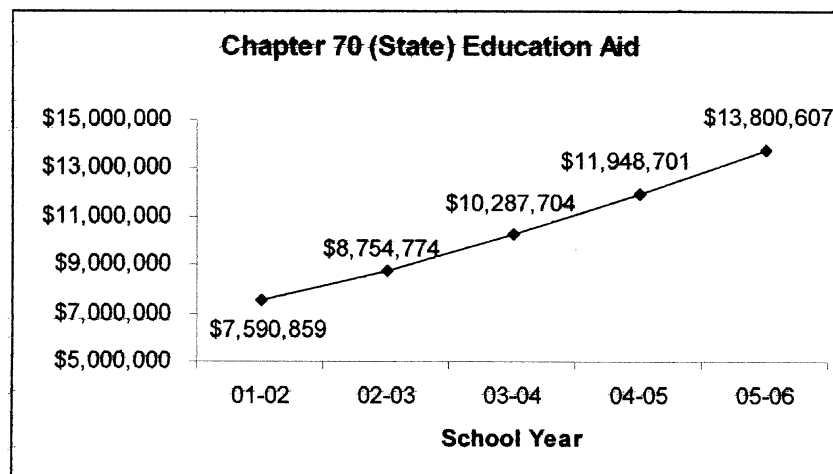
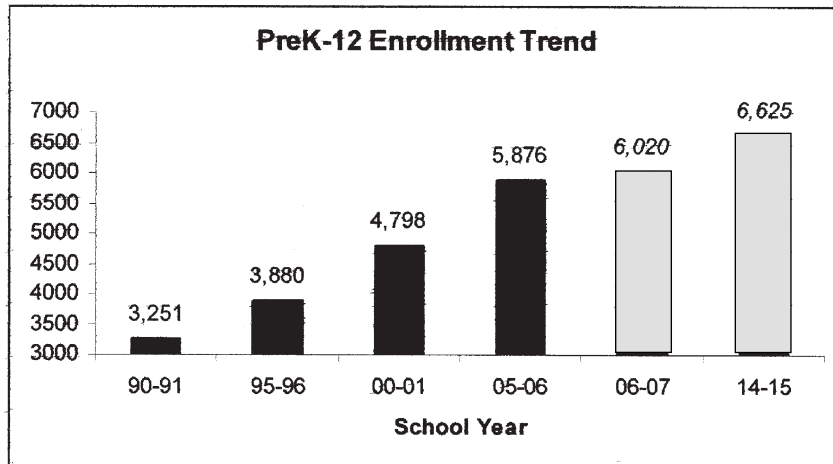
At the same time, we are developing proposals for athletic and co-curricular fees for the 2006-2007 school year. While they will not be built into the FY07 plan, we will have them at the ready in the event the fiscal situation dictates and the school committee decides to implement fees of this type.

Rate increases for full-day kindergarten, preschool, extended school care, and school lunch will also be considered.

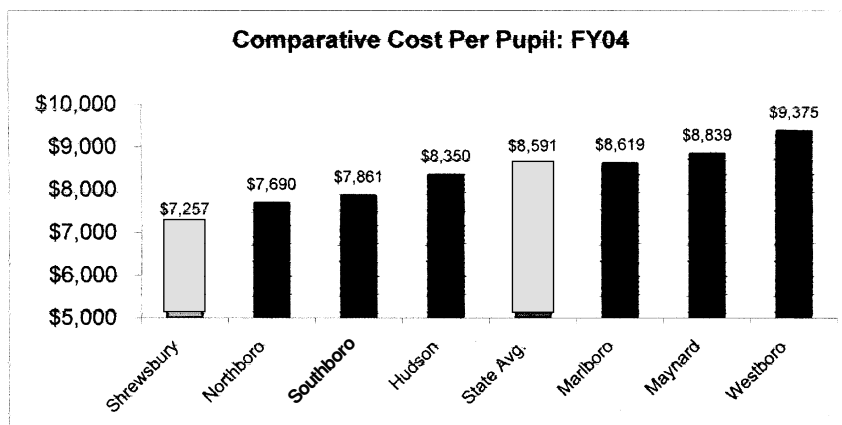
### Timeline

The budget development process is lengthy and requires the participation of many stakeholders. The administration will release its first official budget recommendation to the school committee on January 18th, with subsequent discussions at each of the school committee meetings up to town meeting in late May. As part of the process, the administration consults with the town manager on an ongoing basis and the school committee meets with the Finance Committee in late March. Budget documents will be available at the school department office, the town library, and on our website.

We encourage you to follow the process closely as it unfolds over the next several months.



## Finance Factoid



While anyone can look at a multi-million dollar operation and take issue with a specific expense item, one should consider the totality of expenditures in context with comparative data to evaluate the cost-efficiency of an organization. In the private sector, some like to term this type of analysis as "benchmarking." When one benchmarks the school department's cost-efficiency, it is clear we do as well or better than most of our peers. The chart to the left displays the FY04 Regular Day Cost Per Pupil (latest data available) statistic as determined by the Department of Education.

# The return of Paton

ERICA BODDEN  
PATON SCHOOL PARENT

In July, Paton School welcomed members of Lieutenant Colonel Walter J. Paton's family and Erica Bodden gave them a tour of the Shrewsbury elementary school that bears his name. Lt. Col. Paton, taught math at Major Howard Beal High School (currently the Beal Early Childhood Center) for 11 years when he was called to service. He earned two Silver Stars for bravery, a Purple Heart for wounds received in Belgium, and a second Purple Heart for making the supreme sacrifice in defense of his country. On

## Lieutenant Colonel Walter J. Paton earned two Silver Stars for bravery, a Purple Heart for wounds received in Belgium, and a second Purple Heart.

March 4, 1945 in Prum, Germany, the vehicle in which he was traveling struck a land mine during a reconnaissance mission, and he was killed.

On November 6, 1950, Shrewsbury proudly opened the Walter J. Paton School. It was named in honor of a beloved teacher, colleague, and friend. Two years ago Erica Bodden reconnected Paton School to Lt. Col. Paton's family, bringing history and pride to the school that had been missing for decades. Lt. Col. Paton's daughter, Ann McGrath donated original letters from men who served with the school's namesake. These historic documents discuss the man, his service history, as well as his death. This beautiful piece of history can be seen in the attached picture, and currently hangs in the Paton School lobby.

Three generations are represented in the photo below: Lt. Col. Paton's daughter, Ann McGrath, his grand-daughters, Ann Vienneau and Laura Hansen, and his great-grandchildren, James and Aimee Vienneau and Max and Ellen Hansen.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From bottom left, Aimee Vienneau, Ellen and Laura Hansen. Middle row, Ann McGrath and Max Hansen. Back row, James and Ann Vienneau.

## Housing Starts

August - 8 houses, Condo1  
September - 2,  
October - 12, 4 two family  
November - 5, 9 two family

